REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 15, 2003. Claims 24-59 are presented for examination. Claims 24, 31-33, 40- 42, 49-51, 58, and 59, which are the only claims in independent form, have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

As an initial matter, a Claim To Priority and a certified copy of the priority document for this application were submitted on December 30, 1999, as evidenced by the returned receipt postcard bearing the date stamp of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of which is attached. Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy.

The Office Action states that Claims 24-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,533,174 (Flowers Jr., et al.). Applicant submits that independent Claims 24, 31-33, 40- 42, 49-51, 58, and 59, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from Flowers, Jr. et al. for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 24 is directed to a host computer that communicates with a management apparatus and a printing apparatus via a predetermined communication line. The management apparatus manages fonts.

The host computer includes a reference unit, a font registration unit, and a transmission unit. The reference unit refers to font registration information retained in the management apparatus. The font registration information includes information specifying a font.

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The font registration unit downloads font data to the printing apparatus for registration. The transmission unit transmits registration information to the management apparatus, so that the font registration information retained in the management apparatus may be updated based on the registration information. The registration information indicates the font data downloaded by the font registration unit. The font registration information is used when the font data is downloaded to the printing apparatus by the font registration unit.

An important feature of Claim 24 is that the host computer functions to download font data to the printing apparatus, and enables the font registration information retained in the management apparatus to be updated when the font data is downloaded. More specifically, the transmission unit transmits registration information indicating the downloaded font data to the management apparatus, so that the font registration information retained therein may be updated based on the registration information.

The font registration information is used when the font data is downloaded to the printing apparatus. By virtue of the use of the registration information to update the font registration information, the host computer may easily determine whether a desired font data has been already been downloaded to the printing apparatus by another host computer. According to the invention of Claim 24, the font registration data is retained in an external apparatus (i.e., the management apparatus), which is updated upon each font-downloading operation by the host computer or any other host computer.

Flowers, Jr. et al. relates to a network font server. Flowers, Jr. et al. teaches that an FAF font server 16 communicates with workstations 12 and printers 14 (i.e., clients) over

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a network and provides them with font-specific information to allow them to select and customize a licensed font (see the Abstract).

As understood by Applicant, the FAF font server and the clients communicate using name-identifiers, which are abbreviations of "structured names" (see column 3, lines 31-46). The structured names include information on various attributes. The FAF font server identifies objects using the structured names. Apparently, because the structured names tend to be relatively long in comparison with the name-identifiers, the FAF font server and the clients use the name-identifiers instead of the structured names in any communications. A name-identifier is updated when a communication between the FAF font server and a client uses the name-identifier (see column 10, lines 56-63; and column 11, lines 4-13).

Nothing has been found in Flowers, Jr. et al. that is believed to teach or suggest a host computer that includes "a transmission unit adapted to transmit registration information, indicating the font data downloaded by said font registration unit, to the management apparatus so as to update the font registration information retained in the management apparatus, based on the registration information," wherein "the font registration information is used when the font data is downloaded to the printing apparatus by said font registration unit," as recited in Claim 24.

Flowers, Jr. et al. is understood to disclose that the FAF font server provides the clients with customized fonts. Name-identifiers are used in communications between the clients and the FAF font server in providing the fonts. Flowers, Jr. et al. is believed to be silent regarding the updating of font registration information stored in an external management

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apparatus. Therefore, Flowers, Jr. et al. fails to teach or suggest the claimed transmission unit.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 24 is not anticipated by Flowers, Jr. et al., and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Independent Claims 31-33, 40- 42, 49-51, 58, and 59 include a feature similar to that discussed above, in which registration information indicating a downloaded font is transmitted to a management apparatus in order to update font registration information retained in the management apparatus. Therefore, those claims also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.
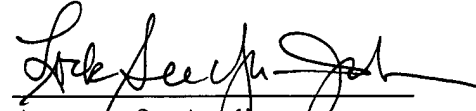
The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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